

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 27, 2004, raised a restriction requirement, under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372, requiring Applicant to elect one of three identified inventions for examination in this application:

- Group I, claims 1-14, drawn to an apparatus for making a fiber preform.
- Group II, claims 1-25, drawn to an apparatus for making a fiber preform.
- Group III, claims 26-31, drawn to a method of making a fiber preform.

Applicant assumes that the Examiner erred in identifying the inventions of Groups I and II. Specifically, Applicant assumes that the Examiner intended to define Group I as being directed to an apparatus for making a glass preform and to be covered by claims 1-14 and 23-24, and further intended to define Group II to be drawn to a deposition burner and to be covered by claims 15-22 and 25. If these assumptions are incorrect, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative, at the number indicated below.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects the invention of Group I for examination in this application. Claims 1-14 and 23-24 read on this elected invention.

The Office Action also raised an election of species requirement, requiring Applicant to elect one of five identified species of the invention:

- Species A, covering the embodiment of FIGS. 8-9.
- Species B, covering the embodiment of FIGS. 10-11.
- Species C, covering the embodiment of FIGS. 12-14.
- Species D, covering the embodiment of FIG. 15.
- Species E, covering the embodiment of FIG. 16.

In response to the election of species requirement, Applicant elects Species C. All of elected claims 1-14 and 23-24 are readable on this species.

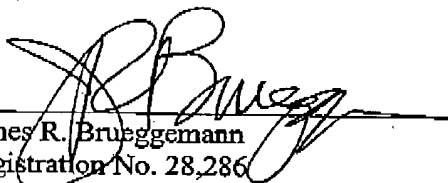
Claims 15-31 are now withdrawn from examination in this application. Applicant, of course, retains the right to file divisional applications directed to the non-elected inventions of Groups II and III.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 13, and 24. The amendment to claim 1 is made solely to add the article "a" before each of three recited structural elements. The amendment to claim 13 is made to better distinguish over the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 4,810,276 to Gilliland, which discloses a deposition burner apparatus incorporating auxiliary burners used for a different purpose from that of the one or more auxiliary burners of Applicant's apparatus. Finally, the amendment to claim 24 is made solely for consistency of terminology with its parent claim 13. No new matter is introduced by these claim amendments.

This application should now be in condition for a favorable examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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